

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 15, 2016

Last week, the County's Sheriff's Department announced arrests of three persons who abducted and assaulted a young woman with the intent of commercial sexual exploitation. They took compromising photos of the victim and posted them on Backpage.com, an online website which is a market leader in commercial sex advertising and has been linked to hundreds of child sex trafficking cases.

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the United States Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee began investigating online sex trafficking in April 2015 with Backpage.com figuring prominently in its investigation. After failing to obtain requested information and documents from Backpage.com, the Subcommittee began issuing subpoenas requesting documents from the firm in July 2015. However, because Backpage.com has failed to comply with the subpoenas, the Subcommittee is seeking to enforce the latest subpoena using civil contempt proceedings. Last month, the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee approved a Senate resolution to hold Backpage.com in contempt of Congress. This resolution is expected to be considered soon by the full Senate. If approved by the Senate, the Senate counsel would be authorized to bring action in the Federal district court in Washington, D.C. to enforce the subpoena.

- M O R E -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the County's Legislative advocates in Washington, D.C. be directed to support passage of a Senate resolution to initiate civil contempt proceedings against Backpage.com to enforce compliance with the subpoena issued by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations as part of its investigation into the problems of sex trafficking on the Internet and commercial sex advertising websites which has been linked to numerous child sex trafficking cases.

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